LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

(a) GOVERNMENT BILLS

(1) The Cochin Agricultural Improvement Loans Act (Amendment) Bill

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Mr. President Sir, I beg to move that the Cochin Agricultural Improvement Loans Act (Amendment) Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I second it.

Motion put and carried

(2) The Cochin Tobacco Act (Amendment) Bill

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise):* Sir, I beg to move that the Cochin Tobacco Act (Amendment) Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I second it.

Motion put and carried

(b) NON-OFFICIAL BILLS

(1) The Cochin Agriculturists' Relief Act (Amendment) Bill

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I move that the Cochin Agriculturists' Relief Act (Amendment) Bill No. 2 be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* I second it.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* Sir, I oppose the motion. And in this connection I have to state that no useful purpose will be served by reiterating the position taken up by the Government in the earlier stages of the introduction of the Bill. According to the House, I have failed to convince the reasonableness of the position taken by the Government. Therefore, I have only to record the opposition of the Government to this legislation at this final stage of the Bill.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I wish to state only one thing. The Bill seeks to apply the law to all men in the State. That is all it seeks to effect. If a law enacted in the State is not applicable to everybody in the State, I do not understand whether we are not justified in saying that there is one law for one man and a different law for another. In this Act, power has been given to the Government to exempt certain institutions. One of the biggest institutions in the State is the *Paliam Tarawad.* The Government

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have exempted the Paliam estate. The benefit of the Act is not given to all the subjects of His Highness the Maharaja. To me it appears that there is absolutely no reason in applying a law to one section of the people and not to some others. Therefore, I support the motion.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I only wish to bring one point to the notice of the House. By not applying the Agriculturists' Relief Act to the Paliam estate, tenants are put to a lot of trouble. The estate is even recovering time-barred debts. And they do so under the provisions of the Revenue Recovery Act. I will just now give an instance, which came to my notice this morning. A certain tenant has to pay a *pattam* of Rs. 77—7—10 per annum. An attachment notice has been served on him claiming a sum of Rs. 1,963—14—3. This is nearly 25 years' *pattam* and interest. Sir, is it not a very hard case? According to the law of limitation, no person is liable to pay more than twelve years' rent, but the Paliam estate is allowed to collect arrears for a period of over twenty-five years. It would appear that the Paliam can safely ignore the Law of Limitation, because they are collecting the amount under the Revenue Recovery Act. If it is in a Civil Court, we can fight out. I request the hon'ble members to support the motion.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Sir, Although it is not the practice in this House to enter into discussion at the stage of the third reading of a Bill, since the President is not aware of the Proceedings at the earlier stages of the Bill, and since the principle involved in the Bill is so important, I think, I will be justified in placing a few aspects before the House.

Mr. President: The proceedings are printed. I can read them.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* On that assurance, I do not wish to proceed further.

Motion put and carried

**(2) The Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill

*Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon** *(Kattur):* Mr. President Sir, I beg to present the Select Committee Report on the Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill. Sir, when a resolution was moved by me showing the urgent necessity for such a legislation and at the earlier stages of this Bill I have made the principles of

** Appendix V.

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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